

# **Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board**

**Annual Report - 2008**

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## Executive Summary

In 2008, the Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) was actively engaged in critical community issues and County priorities. Over the past year, the Board focused on enhancing regional representation, improving board meetings, and setting priorities.

Our top priority issues focus on improving transportation in the Rockville Pike corridor and from east to west. The Board is actively engaged in seeking solutions to the concerns expressed by residents and businesses in our area.

After an extensive public process, the CAB wrote to County Executive Leggett in support of the light rail alternative for the Purple Line following the master plan alignment. Our position was conditioned on full-funding of the construction, preservation, maintenance (including substantial landscaping) and extension to Silver Spring of an enhanced Georgetown Branch Trail. These improvements are essential to meeting community demand for transportation and recreation, while at the same time mitigating the loss of existing trees and screening vegetation.

The issue of traffic on Rockville Pike cuts across all communities, including the City of Rockville, which was added to the services area in 2008. The Board was represented on the Twinbrook and White Flint sector plan advisory boards, the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Implementation Committee and the Purple Line advisory board. The Board continues to monitor the Montrose Parkway and its eventual extension over the CSX tracks.

The Board is engaged in actively promoting County-wide initiatives within the regional services area. The Board's Quality of Life Committee co-hosted a local Positive Youth Development forum in November and is engaging PTAs to promote constructive teen activities and mentoring. The Committee also participated in the County Executive's Senior Summit in November and the January "Villages" meeting hosted by the Regional Services Center.

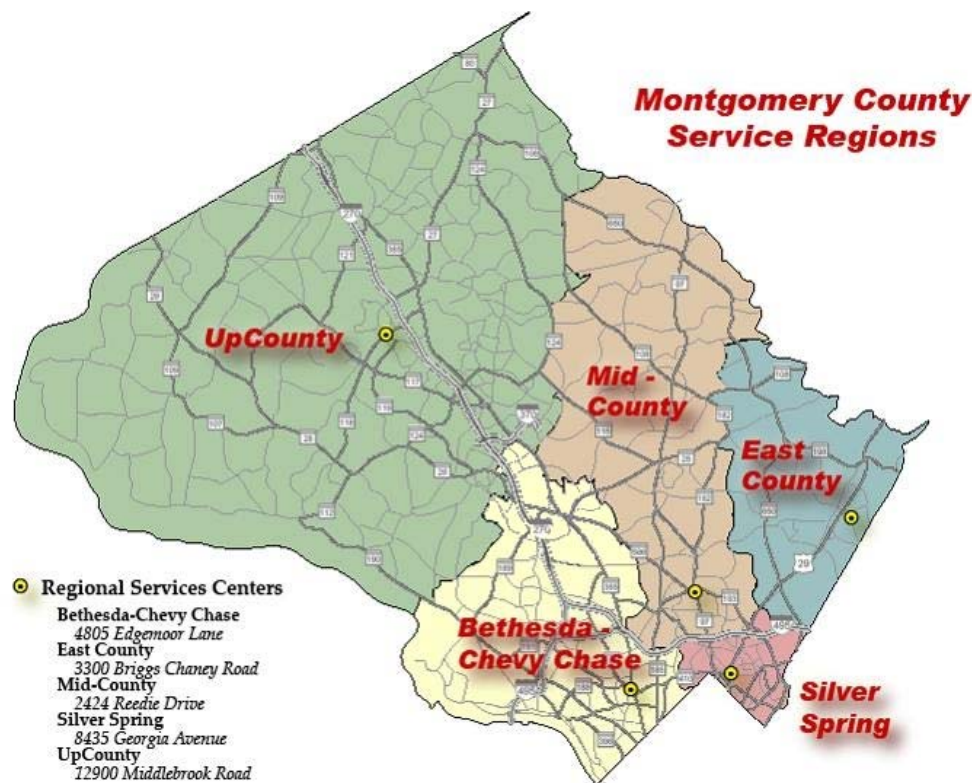
We are also concerned about civilian engagement in public safety. This priority is even more important after the home invasions and car thefts in our area last year. Our Public Safety Committee is working to boost communication and promote an active relationship between communities and our Police and Fire and Rescue Departments. The Board remains opposed to a proposed ambulance fee. We believe that the fee will place an undue burden on some and may impact the ability of volunteer firefighters to raise funds to sustain their operations.

## Background

The Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board advises the County Executive, County Council, and Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center Director on issues facing the community and serves as an advocate for the priorities of local residents and businesses.

Established as the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Citizens Advisory Board in April 1980, the Board's area of coverage grew in 1997 to include Potomac and North Bethesda and the name was changed to the Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board. In 2008, the regional services area was further expanded to include the City of Rockville.

The Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board is comprised of nineteen representatives from residential, business, and non-profit communities located in Bethesda, Cabin John, Chevy Chase, Friendship Heights, Garrett Park, Glen Echo, North Bethesda, and Potomac and Rockville. Board members are appointed by the Montgomery County Executive and confirmed by the County Council.



The Board receives presentations on matters of public interest, many of which relate to budget, transportation, and land use issues. Community residents can express concerns to the Board during its monthly meetings. Issues raised by community members are sent to either to a committee to be vetted or to the appropriate County departments for action and tracked by the Regional Service Center staff. Discussions during the Board's meetings provide a balanced assessment of problems faced by residents and businesses in the regional service area and help to identify potential solutions.

## **Members Serving in 2008**

### **Residential Representatives**

Stephen Baldwin (Vice-Chair)  
Geoffrey Biddle  
Richard Blumstein  
Alan M. Freeman  
Harlivleen (Livleen) Gill  
Peter Gubser  
Jeffrey Hearle  
Ilaya Rome Hopkins  
Seth Maiman  
Elizabeth A. Sandall

### **Planning Area**

Bethesda-Chevy Chase  
Bethesda-Chevy Chase  
Potomac  
Potomac  
Potomac  
Bethesda-Chevy Chase  
Potomac  
Bethesda-Chevy Chase  
Bethesda-Chevy Chase  
Bethesda-Chevy Chase

### **Business Representatives**

Jack Alexander  
Michael C. Fomalont  
Larry Gordon  
Sue F. Knapp  
David M. Smith (Chair)

### **Planning Area**

Bethesda-Chevy Chase  
Bethesda-Chevy Chase  
North Bethesda  
Bethesda-Chevy Chase  
Bethesda-Chevy Chase

## Monthly Meetings

The Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board meets on the third Monday of every month at the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center at 7:00 p.m. All Board meetings are open to the public. There is time for community residents to express and discuss concerns with the Board at each meeting.

During 2008, residents' comments to the Board concerned:

- Street and road maintenance
- Pedestrian and bicycle safety
- Compliance of new homes with zoning and construction requirements
- Public safety
- Storm water drainage issues
- New and better maintained sidewalks
- Development
- Purple Line alignment
- Affordable housing
- Streetlight outages

The Board dedicated its June 2008 meeting to a facilitated discussion of enhancing regional representation, improving board meetings, and setting priorities for Board review. The Board set guidelines for streamlining meetings and requiring that Board members serve as liaisons or ambassadors to community groups. Board members also created a list of priority issues to be incorporated in Board and committee future agendas.

In an effort to be more accessible to all residents, the Board held three meetings in other locations and participated in community events in 2008. The Board met at the Glen Echo Town Hall in March, at the Garrett Park Town Hall in May, and at the Potomac Library in November. Leaders of homeowners' associations and

civic groups discussed the issues and concerns that are important to the residents in their communities. At the Taste of Bethesda and Potomac Days, Board members along with Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center staff distributed information and encouraged residents to attend Board meetings.

## **2008-2009 Board Meetings**

### **2008**

January	Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center
February	Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center
March	Glen Echo Town Hall
April	Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center
May	Garrett Park Town Hall
June	Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center
July	Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center
September	Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center
October	Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center
November	Potomac Library
December	Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center

### **2009**

January	Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center
February	Rockville – County Council Office Building
March	Glen Echo Town Hall
April	Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center
May	Garrett Park Town Hall
June	Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center
July	Potomac Community Center
September	Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center
October	Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center
November	Potomac Library



## 2008-2009 Priority Issues

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 1  | 355 Corridor – Traffic and Development                            |
| 2  | Bethesda Central Business District (CBD) Transit – Purple Line    |
| 3  | BRAC  |
| 4  | Development and its relationship to traffic                       |
| 5  | Improving the Land Use Review Process                             |
| 6  | Improving Transit   |
| 7  | Maintaining and improving quality of education                    |
| 8  | Monitoring Development Projects                                   |
| 9  | High Quality Police and Fire/Rescue Services                      |
| 10 | Public Safety – Resources   |
| 11 | Promoting Smart Growth  |
| 12 | Housing Affordability   |
| 13 | Public Safety – promoting civilian engagement                     |
| 14 | Improving quality of life - Health, Education, Jobs, Safety       |
| 15 | Senior Issues   |
| 16 | Promoting Diversity   |
| 17 | Education – Adequate School Facilities                            |
| 18 | Education – Adequate Staffing                                     |
| 19 | Improving Pedestrian Safety                                       |
| 20 | Street Paving – Ensuring repairs are completed after utility work |
| 21 | Tree Preservation/Stormwater Management - Infill Development      |
| 22 | Promoting Youth Initiatives                                       |
| 23 | Promoting Youth Sports  |

## **Presentations to the Board**

During 2008, the Board received the following presentations:

### **January 2008 - FY09 Operating Budget, Isiah Leggett, County Executive**

County Executive Isiah Leggett gave an overview of his FY09 budget priorities and the overall fiscal picture. Mr. Leggett answered questions from the Board and audience.

### **April 2008 - Pedestrian Safety and MC 311 Initiatives, Tom Street, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer**

To fulfill Mr. Leggett's vision for increased pedestrian mobility and safety, two goals were established: reduce pedestrian-related crashes and ensure that all areas of the County provide safe and convenient travel options for pedestrians. A workgroup was formed to develop and initiate seven strategies: 1) Target pedestrian safety improvements; 2) Assess and improve pedestrian network and connectivity needs; 3) Increase emphasis on pedestrians and bicyclists in the planning process; 4) Identify and implement corridor and intersection modifications and traffic calming treatments; 5) Upgrade pedestrian signals; 6) Assess and enhance street lighting; and 7) Modify pedestrian and driver behavior through enhanced enforcement and educational efforts.

Mr. Street informed the Board that Montgomery County Government has 10,000 10-digit phone numbers. MC311 will be a single, one-stop phone number for complaints and requests. This single number would eliminate the need for residents to know how County government is structured. MC311 will provide significantly enhanced service delivery and allow the County the ability to capture any individual's information or service wants and needs and analyze that information to the benefit of the general public and Government as a whole.

**May 2008 - Planned Montrose Road Overpass and the White Flint Sector Plan; Evan Goldman, The Holladay Corporation and Chris Weber, Federal Realty**

A PowerPoint presentation was given on the Montrose Road Overpass and why local developers are in opposition. Both Mr. Goldman and Mr. Weber expressed concern that Montrose Parkway won't be able to handle the growth predicted in the White Flint Sector Plan unless a network of cross streets are built to serve traffic. They offered the area developers' vision for an urban village type setting in White Flint.

Edgar Gonzalez, Deputy Director of the County Department of Transportation, noted that the County Executive is supportive of many of the concepts being proposed by developers such as Rockville Pike being made a boulevard, increased bus service and shorter blocks to promote pedestrian safety. However, the Montrose Road Overpass has been a number one priority in Montgomery County for the last eight years. In addition, the State of Maryland was scheduled to start work on this project by the end of May.

**July 2008 - Emergency Management Services (EMS) Transport Fee, Thomas W. Carr, Jr., Chief, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service**

Chief Carr reported that the Fire and Rescue Service is facing increasing resource demands and decreasing revenue due to current fiscal constraints. An Emergency Management Services (EMS) Transport Fee would raise as much as \$14 million a year in revenue. One hundred percent of the net proceeds would help with rising costs. Chief Carr answered questions concerning co-pays and deductibles; whether health insurance rates will increase; what charges will be billed to insurance companies; and how this fee should not affect local Volunteer Fire & Rescue Departments.

Major concerns of the Volunteer Fire & Rescue Stations are: the fee may keep some people from calling 911; no assurance that funds generated by the fee would be dedicated solely to the fire/rescue system; and charging for a service provided for free by volunteers will undermine the volunteer side of the fire/rescue system.

Following discussion, the Board voted to reaffirm its position opposing the transport fee. All Board members were in favor.

### **July 2008 - Infill Development, Jane Fairweather, Greater Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chamber of Commerce**

Ms. Fairweather along with Ginanne Italiano, Executive Director of the Greater Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chamber of Commerce, and Raquel Montenegro, a representative of the Building Industry Association, provided an overview of ZTA 08-11 Standards in Residential Zones. They stated that more than 148,000 homeowners will be affected by this legislation, including families with disabled members; homeowners over 55 years old who want to age in place and anticipate having to live on one level; and the "sandwich generation" who are caring for their aging parents as well as their own children. They would like the legislation amended to allow these three categories of homeowners to improve their properties if the legislation negatively impacts them and request that the Board support this position.

Councilmember Berliner, the sponsor of proposed ZTA 08-11, noted that a sixteen member Task Force on Infill Development reached consensus across the board on this legislation. Most homes in older communities sit on approximately 14 – 16% of the lot coverage. The homes that will be unable to expand represent a tiny fraction of homes in the County.

### **October 2008 - Aging in Place Village Initiatives, Harry Rosenberg, Burning Tree Village**

Mr. Rosenberg explained that the Aging in Place movement was inspired by an AARP article about an area called Beacon Hill Village in Boston. Aging in Place is another example of neighbors helping neighbors age in the community. The Burning Tree civic association was dormant at the time of the initiative. A survey was sent out into the neighborhood and over half of the neighbors responded that they would volunteer. They are currently partnered with the Senior Connections and Montgomery County. Under the Burning Tree model, no fees will be charged so everyone may participate. Some examples of the kind of help they would like to provide is reaching out to those over 65, concierge services, wellness services with a medical component and a social component. They would like to grow incrementally with other communities in the region that would like to initiate Aging in Place. They were fortunate to have an attorney assist them in getting their 501-c3 to acquire non-profit status. Mr. Rosenberg feels this initiative could be emulated in a lower income neighborhood.

## **Committees**

The Board has seven committees that discuss and research issues prior to consideration by the full Board. The following paragraphs summarize each committee's activities during 2008.

### **Education Committee**

In keeping with County Executive Leggett's initiative to engage youth in productive and constructive activities, the Committee joined the Board's Quality Of Life Committee to hold a forum in November 2008 on "Positive Youth Development". The forum's goal was to share information about services that are available in the area for our youth and how these services can be accessed. Towards this end, the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center assembled a catalogue of services and started a Teen Advisory Council.

### **Land Use Committee**

During 2008, the Land Use Committee conducted a series of public meetings at which presentations were made by public officials and staff on County land planning projects and legislation and by private sector developers/builders on new land development proposals. Additionally, the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center began generating a quarterly report on the status of proposed and ongoing development projects in the Bethesda CBD. Further, the Chair of the Land Use Committee served as Chair of the County's Citizens Advisory Committee to the Department of Permitting Services and provided regular updates on the Advisory Committee's activities to the WMCCAB Board.

Specific government presentations were made by Council member Roger Berliner on infill development reform legislation, Planning Board staff members on the Twinbrook and White Flint Sector Plans and related rezoning recommendations, Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA) staff on Workforce Housing and Moderately Priced Dwelling Units (MPDUs). New development project presentations were made on Woodmont East, the PeriPoint Building, Suburban Hospital renovation and expansion, the Montrose Road Overpass, Christ Lutheran Church condominium and recreation center, and the Children's Inn at NIH Woodmont House special exception petition.

## **North Bethesda**

The North Bethesda Committee was created in 2008 to identify issues important to the North Bethesda Planning Area – an area currently without representation on the Board.

The Committee has held discussions with County planners on the Twinbrook and White Flint sector plan areas. The Committee reviewed and provided comments on the Regional Service Center Director recommendations for public facility needs in White Flint – specifically for a combined fire station and police substation and a satellite regional service center that would include an express library and public meeting rooms.

## **Quality of Life Committee**

The Quality of Life Committee met in September with Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Director Ken Hartman to discuss the purpose of the Committee and goals for the coming year. The Committee identified key issues based on topics discussed at the June Board meeting. Key areas for this committee are: Engaging Communities, Positive Youth Initiatives, Aging Population Issues, and Greening of our Communities/Sustainability

To date, the Committee has:

- Assisted the BCC Regional Services Center in publishing the online Community Toolkit.
- Met in October with Parks Department Director and staff on the status of ancillary buildings and structures and provided useful feedback in terms of how the Parks Department can better inform the community of renovation projects.
- Hosted a Positive Youth Development Forum, inviting County leaders on this issue to discuss ways to better engage and involve youth in and around Bethesda. It was a productive information sharing session. The Committee will use this forum as a launch pad for ways to better collaborate and coordinate between partners.
- Participated in the County Executive's Senior Summit in November 2008 to discuss issues of the aging population in Montgomery County.

In 2009, the Committee will continue to pursue these goals of community engagement (a recognition program of community outreach efforts), positive youth development (working with the Teen Advisory Council and School clusters), senior issues, and sustainability.

### **Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee**

During 2008, the Public Safety Committee focused on ensuring that the CAB's service area would retain adequate public safety resources despite a worsening economic climate. The Committee proposed, and the CAB agreed, to send a written recommendation to the County Executive that career staffing levels at the Glen Echo Fire Department be maintained. Correspondence to that effect was delivered to the County Executive in January 2008.

Following independent study and a presentation by the County Fire Chief, the Committee also recommended, and the CAB also agreed, to oppose the County Executive's proposed ambulance user fee. Correspondence to that effect was delivered to the County Executive in September 2008. Also, the Committee met with County officials to learn about the planning and progress of Capital Improvement Projects for public safety facilities located within the service area. Finally, members of the Committee attended regional disaster planning meetings sponsored by the B-CC Chamber of Commerce, and served as liaisons to various advisory boards within both the Police and Fire/Rescue communities throughout the year.

### **Transportation Committee**

Members of the Committee continued participation with several advisory and working groups, including:

- Permitting Services
- BRAC Implementation Committee
- Purple Line
- Orphan Roads Policy

Presentations were received from County staff on the residential road resurfacing program and on modifications to the County Road Code.

A meeting was held with County engineers, park service staff and residents of Glen Echo and Cabin John to discuss storm drainage problems on McArthur Boulevard.

The Committee was particularly concerned with the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the Purple Line. The Committee received a presentation by the Maryland Transit Administration, held a public forum at which individuals and representatives of community organizations presented their views, and a work session at which members developed recommendations to be considered by the full Board.

### **Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee was created during 2008. It consists of the Board's Chair, Vice Chair, past Chair and the Regional Services Center Director. In 2008, the Committee reviewed bylaws and policies for the full Board. The Executive Committee also discussed its structure, responsibility and effectiveness. The Committee meets monthly at a time determined by the Chair. The Committee also interacts with other CABs. Language is being added to the bylaws to further define the Committee's operations. The Executive Committee is a much needed tool to be used by the full Board to study and examine issues that may or should be reviewed by the entire Board.



## **Board Actions**

The primary purpose of the Board is to advise the County Executive and County Council on matters that affect the residential and business communities in Bethesda, Cabin John, Chevy Chase, Friendship Heights, Garrett Park, Glen Echo, North Bethesda, Potomac and Rockville. During 2008, the Board's positions on specific issues were:

### **Opposed the Emergency Medical Transport Fee**

September 30, 2008

The Honorable Isiah Leggett  
Montgomery County Executive  
101 Monroe Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear County Executive Leggett:

On behalf of the Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board, I wish to thank you for asking Chief Thomas W. Carr, Jr. to attend our July, 2008 meeting for the purpose of presenting the proposal to authorize the County's Fire and Rescue Service to impose and collect a fee to recover costs generated by providing emergency medical service transports via County ambulances. Chief Carr's presentation was thoughtful, and his responses to our and community members' queries were substantive.

Having considered Chief Carr's presentation, as well as a presentation by the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad and comments from Board members and the community, the Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board has determined, by unanimous vote, to voice its opposition to the proposal. This is consistent with the Board's prior opposition to Bill No. 32-04, though we note that there has been substantial turnover in the Board's membership in the intervening four years. Our opposition to an ambulance user fee remains both principled and pragmatic.

We believe that the provision of emergency medical service is a basic obligation of local government and that the cost to provide such service and to maintain the necessary equipment in first-class condition should be borne equally by all County residents, rather than just the unlucky few who find themselves in medical distress. As a matter of principle, we oppose any effort to impose user fees on basic services such as these, believing instead that their cost should be shared by all County residents.

We also have practical concerns regarding Bill No. 25-08. Initially, we are concerned that the administrative expense of managing the program has been understated

and that, in practice, the user fees would replace, rather than supplement, current budget allocations for fire and rescue services. We discussed these particular issues with Chief Carr, but the substance of the legislation does not alleviate our concerns. Moreover, we are concerned by what we perceive to be undue reliance on health insurance providers to fully pay these fees without seeking authority to implement corresponding premium increases on County residents and the local employers who insure them. Finally, we are concerned that these fees might have an adverse effect on the very important fundraising activities of our volunteer fire and rescue companies.

Though we oppose Bill No. 25-08, we wish to commend Chief Carr's effort to resolve community concerns, and we do not quarrel with the premise that additional funds are needed in order to maintain our fire and rescue equipment in first-class condition. Indeed, the need for additional funding to support our Fire and Rescue Service is a paramount concern for the Board. However, to the extent additional funds are necessary to maintain our fire and rescue equipment; we believe those funds should be appropriated from existing or new revenue streams that derive from all County residents.

Very truly yours,

David Smith, Chair

## **Supported the Reauthorization of the Bethesda Urban Partnership**

October 24, 2008

Mike Knapp  
Council President  
Montgomery County Council  
100 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Mr. Knapp,

On behalf of the Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board, I endorse reauthorization of the Bethesda Urban Partnership (BUP) and support their request for two consecutive five-year terms. The Office of Legislative Oversight has recently completed its five-year evaluation of the Bethesda Urban Partnership and their recommendations will be reviewed by the PHED Committee on October 30, 2008.

The Bethesda Urban Partnership has successfully managed downtown Bethesda through its maintenance, marketing and transportation management efforts for 15 years. Within the last five years, BUP has taken over management of the Bethesda Circulator, helped reduce the number of Single Occupancy Vehicles coming into downtown Bethesda, added an evening ambassador team and created several Arts & Entertainment District initiatives.

We believe that BUP has a proven record as an efficient and effective downtown management organization. Downtown Bethesda is one of the most successful

downtowns in the state of Maryland. Because of BUP, downtown Bethesda is a clean, vibrant and attractive community to the thousands of employees, residents and visitors to downtown Bethesda.

Two consecutive five-year reauthorization terms will allow BUP to devote its time and efforts to mission requirements without having to spend additional time within the five years on the reauthorization process.

The proposed 10-year reauthorization has also been formally endorsed by The Greater Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chamber of Commerce. We respectfully seek your support in our request for the County Council to reauthorize the Bethesda Urban Partnership to two consecutive five-year terms.

Sincerely,

David Smith, Chair

### **Supported building the Purple Line on the Master Plan Alignment using Light Rail**

December 23, 2008

Honorable Isiah Leggett  
Montgomery County Executive  
Executive Office Building  
101 Monroe Street, Second Floor  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Mr. Leggett:

I write to provide the recommendations of the Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board with respect to the design and implementation of the Purple Line Rapid Transitway. Our recommendations follow considerable research and deliberation by the Board's Transportation Committee, including the solicitation, receipt and consideration of community input. However, while we did consider the project as a whole, our recommendations focus only on our particular service area, *i.e.* the portions of the alignments in Bethesda/Chevy Chase.

We support implementation of the Purple Line along the Master Plan alignment because we believe the net benefits to our community will outweigh the costs. We particularly favor the Light Rail Transit (LRT) option because the long-range cost-benefit analysis indicates it will be able to carry a greater number of riders, while at the same time being relatively more quiet and sensitive to the environment, than would the other options. We express no preference among the various LRT options.

We hasten to state that our support for the Purple Line is not unconditional. Rather, it is contingent on full-funding of the construction, preservation, maintenance

(including substantial landscaping) and extension to Silver Spring of an enhanced Georgetown Branch Trail that supports multi-modal use. These Trail improvements are essential to meeting community demand for alternative modes of transportation and recreation in the area, while at the same time mitigating the loss of existing trees and screening vegetation. A fully-funded commitment to enhance the Trail in this manner is essential to our support of the Purple Line.

We are disinclined to provide a recommendation that would seek to micro-manage the Purple Line project. However, we believe it important that the final design of both the LRT route and Trail maximize access and crossing points for the adjacent communities (*i.e.* not simply at the terminus points), and that the MTA should continue to involve those communities in the design process. We believe it important that there be an LRT stop on Connecticut Avenue at Chevy Chase Lake, and that both the Transitway and the Trail cross Connecticut Avenue on bridges. We urge that the final Environmental Impact Statement address plans for the Woodmont East Park terminus in greater detail, and that adverse impacts be minimized. Finally, we believe the Purple Line should utilize the same common fare card utilized by Metro and Ride On, as this would ensure a seamless, and ultimately more efficient, experience for riders.

For your benefit, we have appended at Exhibit 1 copies of correspondence and testimony that we received from members of the community.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide these recommendations, and we would be pleased to further discuss these issues with you or a member of your administration

Very truly yours,

Stephen E. Baldwin, Vice Chair<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Upon the request of the Director of the B-CC Regional Services Center, the WMCCAB's Chair, David Smith, recused himself from consideration of this issue. Accordingly, he played no role in the preparation of this letter, or in its antecedent deliberations.

## **Representation on Other Committees**

As required by County law or request, the Board recommends members or residents for positions on other boards, committees, commissions or working groups.

### **Bethesda Urban Partnership, Inc. Board of Directors**

Richard Blumstein provided monthly updates on Bethesda Urban District issues and other matters of interest to the general community including: the annual Taste of Bethesda (at which there is a Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board information booth), the annual Arts Festival, matters concerning the Arts & Entertainment District, and activities related to Bethesda commerce (e.g. restaurant week) and transportation (e.g. the Circulator and BRAC-related activities). These activities are reported for the public in the Board's meeting summaries. The Board recommended and the County Executive confirmed Jon Weintraub for a second as the residential representative on the Bethesda Urban Partnership, Inc. Board of Directors.

### **Department of Permitting Services (DPS) Advisory Committee**

Larry Gordon reported on the Advisory Committee's study of four issues; restructuring DPS to improve customer service and service delivery; education of the public; development of a training system for DPS employees; and review and recommendation of improvements to the site plan enforcement process.

### **Sector Plan Advisory Groups**

Sue Knapp and Jack Alexander monitored and reported on the progress of the Twinbrook Sector Plan Advisory Group and White Flint Sector Plan Advisory Group, respectively.

### **Purple Line Functional Master Plan Advisory Committee**

Sue Knapp participated in this committee set up by Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission in order to obtain feedback from the community.

### **Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Implementation Committee**

David Smith reported on Committee interaction among representatives of the military, the government and the community as the region prepares for the impact of the move of Walter Reed Army Medical Center to the National Naval Medical Center by 2011.

### **Orphan Roads Policy Task Force**

Steve Baldwin represents the Board on the working group charged with developing a consistent policy to respond to requests from residents for improving and maintaining the roads. The group includes members or staff from the other four advisory boards, representatives of relevant County agencies and concerned citizens and meetings are open to the public. "Orphan" roads are publicly dedicated rights of way that are not maintained by Montgomery County.

**Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center**  
**4805 Edgemoor Lane**  
**Bethesda, Maryland 20814**  
[Bethesda.citizen@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:Bethesda.citizen@montgomerycountymd.gov)  
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